

*Libyan Muslim Leader:*

# Islamic Evangelism Rises

By Chung Kyung-a

Visiting Libyan Muslim leader Dr. Mohamed Ahmad Al-Sherrif said Islamic evangelism in Korea was successful thanks to devoted Korean believers who served as preachers to spread the spirit of the Koran during the past years.

Dr. Al-Sherrif, secretary of the Islamic Call Society of Libya, now in Seoul as head of a five-member Libyan delegation to last Friday's opening of the Al-Fatah Pusan Mosque and Islamic Center, went on: "What impressed me most in Korea was the peaceful co-existence of the Korean Islamic society with other religious societies, while it is undergoing noticeable expansion."

The Libyan Muslim leader who serves as a presidential adviser on Islamic affairs has been in Korea since Thursday to participate in a groundbreaking ceremony for the Korea Islamic University in Yongin, Kyonggi-do, due this morning following opening of the Pusan mosque on Friday.

The Arab Muslim figure who came to Korea to "look at problems in Korean Islamic evangelism" explained in a press meet yesterday that Islam was a very simple religion and it needed neither hierarchy nor organized missions.

"Unlike other sophisticated religions on the earth, Islam has no parishes and we, Muslims, are not obliged to attend a certain mosque, because we have only one God who created people and the whole universe."

Asked about evangelic tactics in Korea, the Muslim leader said that every believer of the Koran is empowered to preach his belief and the teachings of the Prophet Mu-



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Dr. Mohamed Ahmad Al-Sherrif, extreme right, says in a press conference that the growth of the Muslim community in Korea was satisfactory during the past years. He is now in Seoul with four other Libyan Muslim leaders and other Arab Muslim figures numbering 70 to attend a groundbreaking ceremony for the Korea Islamic University due today in Yongin, Kyonggi-do.

hammad to others in any place, at any time.

As part of Libyan support for Korean Islamic families, Dr. Al-Sherrif revealed that his Islamic Call Society of Libya will continue the distribution of the Koran, joint construction projects of mosques and scholarship grants.

"We will seek more donations from the Libyan government and Muslims for the construction of Korean masjids (mosques), while providing medical and financial aid to non-Muslim communities in Korea and all over the world."

Dr. Al-Sherrif served as former education minister of Libya and now works as secre-

tary of the Islamic Call Society of Korea, a non-profit association of good will founded in 1969 by President Moammar Khadafy of Libya.

Asked to comment on Libya's diplomatic relationship with south Korea, the Muslim leader viewed that the upgrading of consular-level ties with south Korea to ambassadorial level was only a procedural matter, pointing out the existing economic, cultural ties between the two nations.

The Libyan delegation attended the opening of the Al-Fatah Pusan Masjid (the Mosque of Victory) and Islamic Center in Namsan-dong, Tongnae-gu, in the second largest

city on Friday along with some 70 Muslims from the Middle East.

They will also participate in the ground-breaking of the first Islamic university on the outskirts of Seoul this morning and will attend a dinner party to be hosted by Acting Prime Minister Nam Duck-woop tonight.

The Muslim visitors will inspect the on-going construction site of the Kwangju Mosque in Kyonggi-do, the third house of Allah in Korea and will leave the country Tuesday after conferring with the leaders of the Korea Muslim Federation on further financial aid to the Korean Muslim community.